

and ambiguities. If paired with offensive systems, they can be viewed as fostering an aggressive policy, and no one wants that. But with these considerations firmly in mind, I call upon the scientific community in our country, those who gave us nuclear weapons, to turn their great talents now to the cause of mankind and world peace, to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete.

Tonight, consistent with our obligations of the ABM treaty and recognizing the need for closer consultation with our allies, I'm taking an important first step. I am directing a comprehensive and intensive effort to define a long-term research and development program to begin to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles. This could pave the way for arms control measures to eliminate the weapons themselves. We seek neither military superiority nor political advantage. Our only purpose—one all people share—is to search for ways to reduce the danger of nuclear war.

My fellow Americans, tonight we're launching an effort which holds the promise of changing the course of human history. There will be risks, and results take time. But I believe we can do it. As we cross this threshold, I ask for your prayers and your support.

Thank you, good night, and God bless you.

CHINA AIRLINES PURCHASE FROM BOEING

Ms. CANTRELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to commemorate the purchase of 10 Boeing 747-400's acquired by China Airlines.

The relationship between Boeing and Taiwan's China Airlines has been extensive. Over the last 7 years, China Airlines has purchased a total of 97 American-made aircraft from Boeing. The acquisition of these 10 planes, which value \$2 billion, brings the total amount of the airline's Boeing-purchased aircraft to \$13 billion.

Sales between Boeing and China Airlines have contributed to increased trade between the United States and Taiwan over the last decade. In these past years, bilateral trade has grown each year by an average of 4.1 percent. Because of this thriving market, the United States has become Taiwan's largest export market. In 2000, the United States accounted for 20 percent of Taiwan's trade worldwide.

In addition, the aircraft have allowed increased domestic flights between Taiwan and the United States. Every week there are over 270 flights—179 passenger and 89 cargo—between our two countries.

I am very pleased to see that Taiwan has become one of our more beneficial trading partners in the world today, and I hope that this market continues to thrive for years to come.

A MICHIGAN MOM

Mr. LEVIN. I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues Ms. Shikha Hamilton, a board member of the Million Mom March from my home State of Michigan. Ms. Hamilton visited my office last month with her fellow board

members to report on their successes and to urge us to pass sensible gun safety legislation to stem the tide of gun violence that plagues many of our communities.

Ms. Hamilton currently serves as the president of the MMM Chapter in Detroit. A rash of gun violence in Detroit over the last year has claimed the lives of 26 children; these incidents highlight the challenge gun violence poses for communities in protecting families. Ms. Hamilton is one person who has stepped up and met that challenge. She has helped form a coalition with other Detroit violence prevention groups, organized a huge march on Belle Isle, and helped create public service announcements to air on local radio stations. Ms. Hamilton is a leader in her community and I commend her for her work.

As Detroit chapter president, Ms. Hamilton testified in support of a local ordinance prohibiting weapons in public buildings. It unanimously passed the Detroit City Council on November 13, 2002. Her chapter also persuaded the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News to close the "newspaper loophole." The newspapers agreed to stop the placement of gun sales in the classified ads, one way criminals had been gaining access to guns without background checks. In addition to all of this, Ms. Hamilton is a full-time attorney, wife and the mother of a 4-year-old daughter.

In the meeting with my staff, Ms. Hamilton and her MMM colleagues mentioned several pieces of gun safety legislation that are critical if we are to reduce gun violence. Among the most important is legislation closing the gun show loophole. In 1994, Congress passed the Brady Law, which requires federal firearm licensees to perform criminal background checks on gun buyers. However, a loophole in this law allows unlicensed private gun sellers to sell firearms at gun shows without conducting a background check.

The Gun Show Background Check Act would close this loophole in the law by extending the Brady law background check requirement to all sellers of firearms including those at gun shows. I cosponsored this bill because I believe it is critical that we do all we can to prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals and terrorists. Study after study has demonstrated that the Brady law has been successful in making it more difficult for criminals to gain access to firearms, and by closing the gun show loophole, Congress would again demonstrate its commitment to public safety. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. Hamilton is doing her best to reduce gun violence in her community. We should do our best to pass sensible laws to make her job easier.

COMMENDING U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last night the President addressed the Nation to announce that coalition forces

were in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people, and to defend the world from grave danger.

This action was taken as a last resort against an evil dictator, Saddam Hussein, who for 12 years has continued to defy and evade his commitments and responsibilities set out for him by 17 United Nations Security Council resolutions.

I believe Saddam Hussein must be disarmed, and for this reason I supported the resolution authorizing the President to take military action if diplomatic efforts were unsuccessful.

And, while some Members of this body did not support the authorization for the use of force back in October, I am confident that we here, Republicans and Democrats, stand united in our support for our uniformed personnel now in harm's way.

During the past few weeks and months, I have seen and heard communities all across my State send off, with tearful eyes, their sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and moms and dads who have been called to serve.

These brave men and women, from Decorah to Muscatine, Red Oak, to Mason City, Pocahontas to Davenport, stood proud while high school bands played the "Star Spangled Banner," and local religious leaders prayed for their safe return.

Over 3,700 Reserve and National Guard troops in Iowa have been called up for active duty. They come from all professions and all economic backgrounds.

I commend them, and all those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, for their courage, bravery and patriotism. I am grateful for the enormous sacrifice made by these men and women and their families. I could not be more honored by their commitment to freedom, and I will continue to pray for their quick and safe return home to their loved ones.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. JAMES R. GAVIN III, M.D., Ph.D.

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and congratulate a distinguished member of the medical community in Georgia. Dr. James R. Gavin III, M.D., Ph.D. has accepted the offer to serve as president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Dr. Gavin's experience and expertise in the medical field is exemplary and offers a high standard of excellence for the student of Morehouse School of Medicine to model.

In 1966, Dr. Gavin graduated from Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC with a degree in chemistry. He earned his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Emory University in 1970 and his M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1975.

On July 1, 2002, Dr. Gavin began work as President of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. Prior to his presidency, Dr. Gavin was the senior scientific officer at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and director of the HHMI—National Institutes of Health and Research Scholars Program.

Prior to joining the senior staff of HHMI, he was on faculty at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center as a professor and as chief of the Diabetes Section, acting chief of the Section on Endocrinology, Metabolism and Hypertension, and William K. Warren Professor for Diabetes Studies. He previously served as associate professor of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Services from 1971-73 and continues to serve in that capacity as a reserve officer.

Among the many honors Dr. Gavin has received are the Daniel Hale Williams Award, the E.E. Just Award, the Herbert Nickens Award, the Daniel Savage Memorial Award, the Emory University Medal for Distinguished Achievement, the Banting Medal for Distinguished Service from the American Diabetes Association, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Duke University School of Medicine, and the Internist of the Year from the National Medical Association.

A committed husband and father, Dr. Gavin and his wife, Annie, have been married for 30 years and are blessed with two sons, Hakkim and Lamar.

I am pleased to have someone of Dr. Gavin's caliber leading the students, faculty and staff of Morehouse School of Medicine. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Gavin and his family on his new position and wish him God's blessings in this exciting opportunity.●

HONORING WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the Western Kentucky University men's basketball team for their success on the court this season.

The Hilltoppers, led by Coach Dennis Felton, overcame injuries and illness, to finish the season at 24-8 and earn a trip to the NCAA tournament. They are a deep, veteran team with plenty of skills and NCAA experience. The Hilltoppers also had a great scoring balance, with five players averaging at least 9.8 points a game.

The Hilltoppers earned an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament with a 64-52 victory over Middle Tennessee in the Sun Belt Conference tournament championship. This makes Coach Felton the first coach in WKU's history to lead the Hilltoppers to three consecutive Sun Belt and NCAA tournament appearances. Unfortunately, the Hilltoppers were unable to carry on their winning momentum against the

University of Illinois, losing to the Fighting Illini in a valiant effort the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Overall, the Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers had a very successful and productive season. They overcame numerous hurdles to win the Sun Belt Conference Tournament championship and earn their 19th invitation to the NCAA tournament. They worked as a team all year to prove their dedication and skill and showed that they have the hearts of champions. I applaud Coach Felton and his players for all that they accomplished this season and I wish them further victories.●

SIX MONTH PERIODIC REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—PM 29

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

As provided by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith the 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 21, 2003.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013.

H. Con. Res. 104. Concurrent resolution expressing the support and appreciation of the Nation for the President and the members of the Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5. An act to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system.

H.R. 975. An act to amend title 11 of the United States Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1047. An act to amend the harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1308. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification, and for other purposes.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1709. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Personnel Management's Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act Inventory as of June 30, 2002, received on March 18, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-1710. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Donation of Patents (Rev. Rul. 2003-28)" received on February 10, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1711. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Compilation of Federal Disaster Areas (Rev. Rul. 2003-29)" received on February 28, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1712. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "January-March 2003 Bond Factor Amounts; Correction (Rev. Rul. 2003-22)" received on February 28, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1713. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Temporary Suspension of a Provision, and Extension of Certain Deadlines Under Raisin Diversion Program (Doc. No. FV03-989-2 FIR)" received on March 20, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1714. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Reduction in Production Cap for 2003 Diversion Program (Doc. No. FV03-989-3 IFR)" received on March 20, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1715. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Final Free and Restricted